

Financial.

SIXTH AGRICULTURAL CONGRESS.
UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.
**THE WHOLE STORY ABOUT THE EMPIRE—EXTRA-
ORDINARY LETTER FROM THE UNITED STATES.
PATENT OFFICE—REMARKS OF DR. C. T. JACK-
SON OF BOSTON—ADJOURNMENT—THE PRES-
IDENT'S VALEDICTORY.**
From Our Special Reporter.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15, 1898.

The first business in order this morning was the reading of a letter from Prof. A. D. Baché of the United States Coast Survey, office, inviting the Society to visit that office at such time as may be agreeable to the members. The President announced the reception of volume of the transactions of the Illinois State Agricultural Society, and stated that in Executive Session last evening provisions had been made to commence library and preserve specimens presented to the Society.

Mr. B. B. French said that there were certain clauses in the President's address which required the consideration of a Special Committee, and he moved the appointment of such Committee, which was agreed to.

The Hon. Henry Wager reported from the Committee on awarding a testimonial to Mr. Wilder, that the sum of \$500 had been appropriated for that purpose.

Gov. Brown of Mass., and he had seen Mr. Wilder cultivate of trees and plants for many years, and that in this department, as in his official connection with the Society, he had ever found him careful in the discharge of his duty.

Mr. George W. of N. C., added his testimony to that of Mr. Brown.

Ex-President Wilder rose to return very sincere thanks for this honor, and the many previous evidences of regard for him on the part of the Society. He said he never had made any remarks on this occasion if he were not desirous to pay a tribute to the unceasing industry, the cheerfulness, and the accuracy with which Miss Ben Peckham had discharged her duties to the Society since she had been appointed Secretary.

He said the Society for two years past, he expressed the opinions of my fellow-reporters at all the fairs of this Society in indorsing the eulogium of Ex-President Wager.

Mr. Livingston of Iowa, moved that the Secretary be instructed to exchange the Society with the Transatlantic and the various State Societies. Adopted.

Col. H. K. Burgess of North Carolina rose to introduce Mr. Leonard Wray of England, who would address the meeting on the subject of the African Impulse.

Mr. Wray commenced by seeking the history of the discovery of the imphee in the Cape Colony in 1830, but his wife's failing health compelled him to visit the Colony of Natal. During this residence he had discovered the imphee growing around the Kaffir huts near the station, by whom the plant is generally cultivated for the mere purpose of chewing the stalks and sucking the juice, but not at all for sugar-making.

A practical sugar-planter himself, he saw at once from the great sweetness of the juice, and the very brief time required for its conversion into sugar, that it was of immense value to the world by extending the sugar-bearing region over the whole Temperate zone. Having cultivated, and at much pains collected together, fifteen varieties of imphee, which had been previously grown in Europe, he had them sent to Europe in the early part of 1854, taking with him seed of all the imphees, and sugar which he had made from the juices. These seeds and sugar he exhibited at the Exposition Universelle at Paris, and received the silver medal of the Emperor Napoleon, a grant of two thousand five hundred acres of land in Algeria, with privilege of selection in any of the three provinces of that Colony. He had put the seed into

cultivation of the Province of Foulon. Mr. Wray, to show that in the Island of Guadaloupe the imphee had been tried in comparison with the sugar cane, presented a copy of the *Journal de Guadaloupe*, in which, over the signature of M. de la Roche, the following entry is to be found: "Guadaloupe, it is certified that in the celebrated 'Grand Terre' district, on the estate of Comte de Chazelles, the imphee juice marked 104, Beaume—nearly 11—when the sugar-cane 104, Beaume—B, in the comparison last made, was found to be superior during the winter season." Mr. Wray protested against the name *Chinese Sugar Cane*, for if members would but examine a head of imphee on the table, which had been brought by him direct from Africa, they would see that it was not a Chinese cane. He believed that the sorgho had been introduced into the West Indies by the Portuguese, from their Caffrarian colony at Delagoa bay. In fact, his supposition received confirmation from the report, in the *Journal de Madagascar*, of the introduction of the sorgho into the Eastern Antilles, by Mr. C. J. Sprague. Mr. Sprague had, in consultation with Prof. Gray, the celebrated botanist, given an opinion that the sorgho was merely a variety of the same species, *Andropogon*, to which he alluded as *Andropogon sorgho*, very remarkably that our country alone should grow in China, and eighteen be found in South Africa, unless the solitary specimen had been

In this country most of the seed had been planted in the state of Louisiana, where it was found to be uniform in type. The largest proportion of it was found to be identical with Dowsrah corn, the *Ma-Jaule* of Africa. Small patches were planted with selected seed, and apart from the main crop. The crop of seed amounted to about four hundred and fifty bushels of the pure seed, had been fed to the cattle, because neither Gov. Hammond nor himself were willing to permit much seed to be distributed throughout the country. When the Hon. J. B. Harlan, Secretary of the Interior, sent a bushel to the United States Patent Office, which was, for most mysterious reasons, refused, although the head of the Department had previously appeared to favor its purchase. Not only had this seed been refused, but efforts had been made by a person in public office to stir up the public mind against the seed, to destroy public confidence in the value of his tuppess. This letter he would proceed to read.

Mr. D. Jay Browne of District of Columbia supported the bill, and referred to a private note written by him to a publisher, in which he would suggest to the chair the impropriety of making public use of it under such circumstances. The Patent Office was not responsible in the premises, but merely him-

Col. Burgwyn of North Carolina said that with all due deference to the gentleman he thought that no endorsement should be used, and if the letter contained matter, the publicity of which might materially injure the value of the plant, Mr. Gray said that he permitted to make use of it, or any other papers bearing upon the case.

Mr. Foster of Maine agreed to this view of the matter.

Dr. Higgins, State Agricultural Chemist of Massachusetts, spoke to the question, and on his motion it was ordered by the chair put to vote and unanimously resolved that the letter should be read. The following are its contents:

U. S. PATENT OFFICE, Dec. 15, 1893.

DEAR SIR: As it is a mooted question whether the Chinese Sugar Cane or the African implies the most valuable plant for the production of sugar, and whether the Chinese cane is really hybridized, and whether the implies be not a cross between the Oriental Cane and the Chinese Sugar Cane, or some unknown variety, I have no objection to your publishing the results of the seed unless you deem it safe, until you are what action the United States Agricultural Society will recommend at their meeting in 1894. I need not say that I am not at all disposed to really any hundred billions of the impulse seed in the United States which will be thrown into the market at such prices as to

This office has refused to purchase any of the impulse seed.

Very respectfully,
H. H. MOORE, reg. successor to C. M. Stanton, New York.

The greatest excitement followed the reading of this letter.

Mr. Wray proceeded in a very calm and dignified manner, and with all the attention of the Society to the fact that this letter could be viewed in no other light than as a public document, although it was marked "private." It was, in fact, a secret circular which was issued by the Agricultural Department of the Executive Council of the United States, and which was intended that this Society should pass judgment upon its merits. He paid a high tribute to the sense of honor and patriotism of the gentlemen who, opposing this secret manner of improving his interests, had nobly refused to accept a paper in his hands. It was not such use as he would have made of it. That it was not a private individual who protested against his secret manner was shown in the words of the letter: "I have been requested to suggest, &c., and that it was dated 1890." This request was refused, &c. When Mr. Wray received this letter he was in Boston, making preparations to deliver lectures on India; but he had come here without delay to ask the United States Agricultural Society to take up the subject of India, which was expected to give. He was a stranger in a strange land, and he asked the gentlemen present, representatives of American agriculture, if they would not give

A unanimous response was given to this appeal, and the most influential members left their seats and seated themselves near Mr. Wray to evidence their desire to give him a fair hearing.

Mr. Browne endeavored to explain that the letter, although dated at the Patent Office, was a private communication to Mr. Moore, and the Society could judge whether he had or not committed a breach of confidence; but he was called to order—the Chairman ruling that Mr. Wray had the floor, and no interrupt-